Christian Unity Newsletter

Vol. I October, 1955 No. 4

Report To The Churches

On Disciple Support of Ecumenical Causes

In 1941, the International Convention requested the Council on Christian Unity to guide Disciples in their support of ecumenical causes. Here is the latest report of the Council.

Disciples' share of the 1955 budget of the World Council of Churches is $19,050. Toward this total obligation 380 local churches have contributed $8,990.40 as of September 30. Another $10,060 is needed before December 31.

Disciples Support Encouraging

Since 1938 the number of Disciples congregations giving direct support to the World Council has jumped from 4 to 434. Total gifts have climbed from $131.20 to $11,222.68. According to the Disciples Year Book, which lists all churches making contributions to the World and National Councils, local church contributions in 1953 varied from $1.00 to $750.00. Five churches contributed $200 or more; 17 contributed $100 or more; 60 contributed $50 or more. First Church Houston, contributed $750.00.

World Council Work Expanding

Prior to 1948, the World Council had no budget, and simply cut its program from year to year to fit contributions received. In 1948, Disciples contributions from churches and other sources totalled $6,678.71. World Council operations at that time were very limited and financially precarious.

At Amsterdam in 1948, the churches agreed that the World Council should operate on the basis of Christian stewardship and sound business practices. A budget was drawn up totalling $363,000, and quotas were suggested to the churches for their support. The Disciples quota from Amsterdam, 1948, to Evanston, 1954, was set at $15,237.50 per year. During that period receipts from congregations have averaged just under $10,000. The ballance has been paid in full, because certain gifts to the World Council for evangelism and youth work could be credited against the Disciples quota. By 1954, congregational support had risen to just $4,000 short of the quota, and would possible have equalled the total quota in two or three more years.

In the meantime, the work of the churches through the World Council was seriously crippled because of the ceiling fixed on the budget at Amsterdam. At Evanston, therefore, the Churches agreed to up the budget by nearly 25%, to $441,000. Disciples quota became $19,050, and presumably will remain there until the next Assembly.

Unity Rests on Believing Congregations

As a principle Disciples have maintained that Christian unity, to have a solid foundation, must rest on the support of local congregations. Disciples have therefore provided support for ecumenical causes by including them in local church budgets, or through special offerings at Pentecost, World Communion Sunday, or Reformation Sunday. In the long run, we believe this principle is sound. But, presently, we are about $10,000, and 3,000 congregations short of an adequate participation in the World Council program.

Urgent Action Needed!

To close the gap more quickly between our obligation and our present contributions, we commend to Disciple congregations the following action:

1. That all churches presently giving to ecumenical budgets raise their contributions by 25%.
2. That at least 10 more churches give $200 each per year to National and World Council budgets;

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World Council Budget, Annual

As Approved At Evanston

General Secretariat	
Geneva	$ 52,490
New York	46,000
Far East	4,500
IMC - WCC Joint Committee	3,000
Division of Studies	
Divisional Staff	20,560
Church and Society	9,700
Faith and Order	14,130
Evangelism	9,700
Division of Ecumenical Action	
Divisional Staff	12,730
Ecumenical Institute	60,000
Youth - Geneva	19,040
Youth - New York	14,000
Laith.	9,700
Cooperation, men and women	9,700
Division of Inter-Church Aid	
Staff	8,700
Commission on International Affairs	55,000
Department of Information	34,340
Ecumenical Press Service	3,000
Library	4,210
General Reserve and Contingencies	30,000
Reserve for Third Assembly.	20,000
(approved at $441,000)	$ 440,500

Funds should be sent direct to:

World Council of Churches
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

marked "Disciples' quota."

National Council of Churches, Expenditure Budget, 1955

(By categories of operations in 17 Departments)

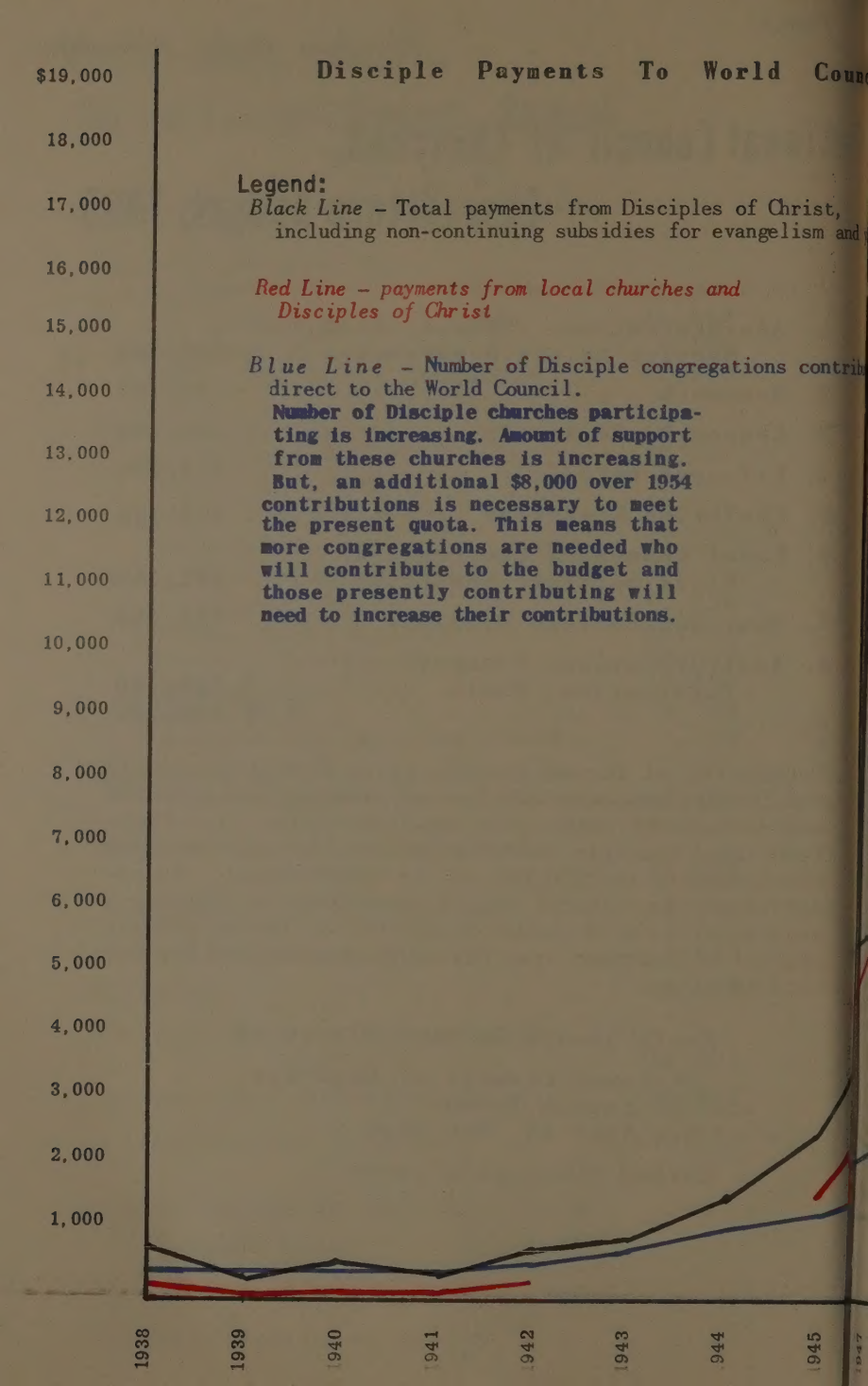
1.	Administration: Offices, Staff and Service to all Departments	$ 2,010,500
2.	Research	232,500
3.	Church World Service	3,400,000
4.	Life and Work	470,000
5.	Christian Education	913,500
6.	Local Community Cooperation, Field Service, and Laity .	592,500
7.	Home and Foreign Missions . .	860,500
8.	Interpretation, Evangelism, Publication, Radio	2,320,500
		$ 10,800,000

Categories of income include gifts from individuals and foundations, contributions of churches and agencies and designated funds from local churches. . . .Funds from local Disciple churches go into the last category, which amounts to $850,000 of the total budget. In addition to these local church contributions Disciples also contribute to other categories of income through special allocations from Disciple agencies and Brotherhood offerings.

Funds should be sent direct to

National Council of Churches
297 Fourth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Marked "Disciples' quota"


Disciple Payments To World Coun
Legend:
Black Line – Total payments from Disciples of Christ, including non-continuing subsidies for evangelism and
Red Line – payments from local churches and Disciples of Christ
Blue Line – Number of Disciple congregations contrib direct to the World Council.
Number of Disciple churches participating is increasing. Amount of support from these churches is increasing. But, an additional $8,000 over 1954 contributions is necessary to meet the present quota. This means that more congregations are needed who will contribute to the budget and those presently contributing will need to increase their contributions.
$19,000
18,000
17,000
16,000
15,000
14,000
13,000
12,000
11,000
10,000
9,000
8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
1938
1939
1940
1941
1942
1943
1944
1945

Evanston Budget
Quota $ 19,050

Amsterdam Budget Quota
$15,237.50

Amsterdam

Evanston

Number of
Churches

500

400

300

200

100

1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955

Union Developments Around The World

Canada – *Anglican and United Church*

Anglican Archbishop Walter Foster, addressing the 19th triennial General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, stated that talks with the United Church had reached a point of ineffectiveness. Urging Anglicans not to be discouraged, he noted that "conversations are bound to flag if not fail" unless based on a strong incentive to union on the part of Church people, rather than on concrete schemes and deadlines which must be met. He suggested that concern and understanding must be aroused among the general church membership.

Italy – *Waldensian and Methodist*

At its annual meeting in September the Synod of the Waldensian Church approved a proposal for immediate "de facto" ecclesiastical union with the Italian Methodist Church pending organic union. The Waldensian Church a pre-Reformation Protestant communion of 25,000 members, has a long history of ecumenical action. The Italian Methodist Church numbers 8,000 members.

Britain – *Anglican and Church of South India*

Reverend W.W.T.Hannah, leading Anglican opponent to the formation of the Church of South India, joined the Roman Catholic Farm Street Jesuit Church after the Anglican Church at its Assembly in July approved a larger degree of inter-communion with the Church of South India Mr.Hannah intmmated that 20 or 30 other Anglican clergymen would follow. The Church of South India, comprising former Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed Churches, was formed in 1947.

Hong Kong – *Ecumenical Mission Council*

Delegates from 22 younger churches and mission boards, meeting at Hong Kong from July 5–7, established the *Asia Council of Ecumenical Mission* as a means of sharing their own resources in extending the total witness of the Church to all parts of the world. Emphasizing the needs for "self-help" among the churches in Asia for Asians to take their share of responsibility for other parts of the world, the Council's program will include two-way exchanges of qualified personnel between churches in Asia and those in other parts of the world, and initiation, encouragement and support of projects of the churches in areas of "need or ecumenical relevance" in Asia or elsewhere.

Bishop Enrique Sobrepena of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines was elected chairman. Churches of Korea, Japan, Formosa, Hong Kong, Philippines, Malaya, Thailand, and Indonesia were represented.

Russia – *Anglican and Orthodox*

Representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England meeting at Lambeth Palace in July agreed to confer in Moscow next year. Purpose of the Moscow conference will be to discuss inter-communion between the two Churches. The Lambeth meeting began preparatory conversations and drew up an agenda for the Moscow Conference.

lo[t] from Davos

[M]eeting at Davos, Switzerland, from [Ju]ly 25 to August 9, the Central Com[mit]tee and Divisional and Departmental [Com]mittees of the World Council re[vie]wed work accomplished since Evans[ton] and projected plans for the com[ing] year. The year since Evanston was [cha]racterized as "a year of transi[tio]n." New staff was introduced, a new [str]ucture tried out, and the mandates [of] Evanston spelled out in specific [pro]grams and projects.

A declaration on **disarmament and [pe]aceful change** was prepared by the [C.]C.I.A. and approved by the Central [Com]mittee. Basically, the declaration [st]ates that armaments reduction under [ad]equate international control must [be] implemented with the development [of] international methods for peaceful [se]ttlement of existing injustices. [Th]e declaration spelled out in detail [be]rlain procedures and suggestions [fo]r international consultation.

The **Ecumenical Institute** is ex[pe]cted to continue "pioneer work on [th]e frontiers of the relation of the [Ch]urch to the world...an energizing [fo]rce for all the work of the World [Co]uncil."

The program of **Inter-Church Aid** [w]as enlarged to include Asia, Africa, [an]d Latin America, "where spiritual [an]d social tasks which grow out of [re]volutionary changes" require aid on [an] ecumenical basis."

Studies projects were approved for [a] Areas of rapid social changes; b) [Y]ounger Churches in the midst of other [a]s renaissant religious groups; c) [W]ar and Peace; d) Evangelism and the [th]eology of evangelism; f) Faith and [Or]der, expecially the nature of the [Ch]urch and the question of prosely[tis]m. A special conference is also [pl]anned between Lutheran and Reformed [le]aders to pick up points of discuss[io]n scarcely touched since the Reform[at]ion. The **Areas of Rapid Social Changes'** studies will be undertaken with a view to bringing to bear on such situations all the resources of Christian, commercial, and international (e.g. U.N. and Point IV) bodies.

The Youth Department, noting the exodus of **young people** from churches, placed emphasis on a program of adequate nurture for youth within the Church.

In a message to the **Moscow Patriarchate** on the question of peace, the Central Committee wrote that the Churches should "concentrate on the deeper aspects of cooperation between churches as churches, and on fundamental issues of Christian faith and conscience, and on this foundation turn again to questions of the actions of Christians in the world....We pray that the way may be opened for the fuller exchange of spiritual gifts unto the building up of the Body of Christ."

National Councils of Churches are to have "associated," consultative status to the World Council. Departments of the World Council will develope close working relationships with departments of the several national councils.

With regard to World Council/International Missionary Council cooperation, Dr. Henry P. VanDusen stated that "over half the program of the World Council is now carried forward in functional **cooperation with the International Missionary Council.**"

New Member Churches include the Evangelical Lutheran Church Silesia (Czechoslovakia) and the National Baptist Convention of America. Total membership of the World Council is presently 167 Churches.

Next meetings of the World Council Central Committee - July 28 - August 5, 1956, Budapest, Hungary.
1957 - Yale (U.S.A.)
1958 - Island of Rhodes

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Disciple Support Needed *cont. from p.1*

3. That at least 50 more churches give $100 each per year;
4. That at least 100 more churhhes give $50 each per year;
5. That the remaining 3,000 or more Disciples churches begin participation with study groups on Christian unity, and with such contributions as are possible now.

This report and petition is for the consideration and action of every Disciple congregation. If further information is desired, it can be secured from the Council on Christian Unity, or from the World and National Councils.

NCC Begins Survey of Ecumenical Education

A survey to determine the needs and resources for ecumenical education in the Unitekk States has been launched by a special committee of the N.C.C. with J.Edward Dirks of Yale as Director and Lela Anderson, secretary. Information now being gathered from member communions and inter-denominational agencies concerning their programs and emphases in ecumenical education will provide a special committee, meeting in November, with evidence to determine whether and what additional action needs to be taken in this field. The study was initiated, in part, to determine whether there is a need for an *ecumenical institute* in the United States.

Disciples Confer

Scribes and chairmen of eleven area groups working on the(Greenwich) *Plan of Union For A United Church In the United States,* together with members of the Executive Committee of the Council on Christian Unity an other consultants, will meet at th School of Religion, Indianapolis October 25-26. The scribes will con sider the draft *Plan* and possible Disciple participation in a unite church.

The eleven area groups, represen ting a cross section of the Brother hood, have been working at the draf *Plan* since early this year. Thei findings have been assembled fo study at the October meeting, whic is expected to formulate recommenda tions concerning the *Plan* and Disci ple participation in it. Disciples recommendations will be submitted t the Conference on Church Union, a exploratory body including represen atives of eight Protestant communion in America.

Department of Ecumenical Servic

A program of assistance totallin $123,000 was approved by the Depart ment of Ecumenical Service for pres entation to the Committee on Relie Appeals at its meeting on Septembe 6, 1955.

Dr.Hawley, chairman, Dr.Buckne and Robert Tobias returned from tour to Europe and the Middle Eas just prior to the September 6 meetin and presented to the Department carefully prepared list of inter church aid projects, stretching fro Berlin to Cairo. Largest items in th program are for service to refugee and for the appointment of competen Disciples to do ecumenical servic abroad. Other items included assist ance to churches on the earthquak islands of Greece, to ancient churche of Palestine, to churches of Eas Europe and to the inter-church ai program of the World Council. Assist ance is also recommended for Korea Kenya, and Malaya.

Reporting on their contacts i Europe and the Middle East, the dele gation, including Drs.Roy Ross, C.O Hawley, G.W.Buckner, Jr., and Mr Tobias, stated close contacts and firm fellowship had been establishe with churches in those areas in post-war emergency period. The Depar ment agreed that an agressive effor should be made to broaden and deepe fraternal relationship with thos churches on a more permanent basis.